

MERA Presents Awards at Annual Town Meeting Event Kicks Off Four-Day MERA KnowledgeFest

Kicking off MERA KnowledgeFest 2007, held in March in Knoxville, TN, was MERA's annual Town Meeting. The event included an awards ceremony at which MERA had the privilege of honoring many worthy recipients. What follows is a recap.

Alpine Electronics Wins MERA Anti-Transshipping Award

MERA awarded Alpine Electronics of America, Inc. the "MERA Anti-Transshipping Award" for the second consecutive year. The award is given to a MERA manufacturer member for its efforts to eradicate transshipping. Transshipping involves the commerce of branded products in a manner that is contrary to the covenants provided by the manufacturer's dealer agreement. For example, unauthorized companies often sell mobile electronics products over the Internet.

MERA gave each of its manufacturer member companies the opportunity to submit a self-nomination for consideration for the MERA Anti-Transshipping Award. MERA then opened the voting to its full retailer membership.

Vogel and Weisel Recognized for Service as Volunteers

MERA also presented its annual "Outstanding Volunteer Award" to Barry Vogel, president of The Ultimate Edge in Oswego, NY. Vogel is presently the MERA's vice president. His volunteer work also includes serving as MERA's secretary/treasurer and the chairman of the Education Advisory Group, which spends much time in the development of workshops and educational programs. Vogel also served on a special MERA task force, has contributed numerous articles for the MERA Solutions newsletter and other purposes, and he has represented MERA in distributor shows and as a speaker/instructor for MERA workshops.

And MERA recognized long-time trustee Charlie Weisel, president of The Specialists, based in Tucson, Ariz. Charlie served as MERA's secretary/treasurer from 1998-2006, a demanding role that enabled MERA to keenly manage its finances. For his dedication, MERA presented Weisel with a MERA Service Award.

Former Trustees Honored

Also honored were board members whose terms ended recently: Anne Moore, d & m Sound, Columbia, MO; Phil Zastrow, Sound Works, Norfolk, NE.; David Hall, Traffik Jam Inc., Campbellsville, KY; Dominick Aquilini, Boston Acoustics, based in Peabody, MA; and Ron Freeman, AAMP of America, based in Clearwater, FL. Each was given a MERA Trustee Award.